

Argument

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/12800

2. Applicant

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4. Date of Notification 10.08.04

5. Subject Matter of Argument

5.1. Amendments

Amendments to claim 11 and the description (page 11, lines 12 and 13) are made in response to the Examiner's suggestion.

5.2. Present invention

As the Examiner states in the second written opinion, the subject matter of the claims of the present application are novel and inventive.

With respect to the additional remarks set forth in the second written opinion, the applicant does not think that claims 1 and 11 are not clear. The description and drawings as a whole provide enough support for the claimed subject matter.

Amendment

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4. Item to be Amended

Description and Claims

5. Subject Matter of Amendment

5.1. The phrase "while reading data from" which appears on page 11, lines 12-13 in the description should be amended as "while writing data to".

5.2. Claim 11 is amended as per the attached sheet.

5.3. Claims 1-10 are retained unchanged.

6. List of Attached Documents

Pages 11, 36 and 37

drive current supplied thereto. The first photodetector preferably receives a portion of the laser beam that has been emitted from the laser light source and then reflected from an optical disc, thereby generating a readout signal. The second photodetector preferably receives another portion of the laser beam
5 that has been emitted from the laser light source, generates an electric signal of which the level represents the power of the laser beam received, and outputs the electric signal as a light quantity detection signal. The feedback control loop preferably compares the level of the light quantity detection signal with a predetermined target value and preferably controls the amount of the
10 drive current so that the level of the light quantity detection signal approaches the target value. The driving method preferably includes the steps of: sensing a decrease in the sensitivity of the second photodetector while writing data to the optical disc; decreasing the target value as the sensitivity of the second photodetector decreases ; and regulating the amount of the drive current such
15 that the level of the light quantity detection signal approaches the decreased target value while reading the data from the optical disc, thereby controlling the power of the laser beam emitted from the laser light source.

Other features, elements, processes, steps, characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the
20 following detailed description of preferred embodiments of the present

wherein the corrected target value is used in reading the data from the optical disc.

10. The optical disc drive of claim 9, further comprising:

5 decision means for obtaining a timer upper limit value using the value stored on the memory element to represent the difference; and

a timer, which keeps counting until its count reaches the timer upper limit value,

wherein when the count of the timer reaches the timer upper limit value,
10 the value stored on the memory element to represent the difference is updated into a new value.

11. (Amended) A method for driving an optical disc drive that includes a laser light source, a first photodetector, a second photodetector and a feedback
15 control loop, wherein the laser light source emits a laser beam of which the intensity is changeable with the amount of drive current supplied thereto; the first photodetector receives a portion of the laser beam that has been emitted from the laser light source and then reflected from an optical disc, thereby generating a readout signal; the second photodetector receives another portion of
20 the laser beam that has been emitted from the laser light source, generates an

electric signal of which the level represents the power of the laser beam received, and outputs the electric signal as a light quantity detection signal; and the feedback control loop compares the level of the light quantity detection signal with a predetermined target value and controls the amount of the drive current so that

5 the level of the light quantity detection signal approaches the target value,

the method comprising the steps of:

sensing a decrease in the sensitivity of the second photodetector while writing data to the optical disc;

decreasing the target value as the sensitivity of the second photodetector

10 decreases ; and

regulating the amount of the drive current such that the level of the light quantity detection signal approaches the decreased target value while reading the data from the optical disc, thereby controlling the power of the laser beam emitted from the laser light source.